City Council Report

Submitted by: Lamorinda Spirit Van Program, City of Lafayette

June 2, 2008

1. Introduction

We understand the Lamorinda Spirit Van Program is an Enterprise Program with limited support from the City of Lafayette. The City of Lafayette has graciously funded the program as follows:

- 2005-2006 $35,000
- 2006-2007 $25,000
- 2007-2008 $25,000

In 2007-2008, we appreciate having received additional funding as well:

- $5,000 from the Town of Moraga
- $5,000 from the Lafayette Community Foundation
- $200 from the Moraga Women's Society
- $2500 from individual donors
- One-half the proceeds from the Moraga Junior Women's Club Garden Tour to be received on June 4, 2008.

The goal is for the Lamorinda Spirit Van Program to be self-sufficient through securing funding.

- We actively solicit funding from foundations, the Lamorinda cities of Lafayette, Orinda, and Moraga, service groups, and Lamorinda citizens. We would like to see Orinda and Moraga increase their contributions to support this much needed program.

- We also raise money through businesses advertising on the van, through passenger fares, fund raisers, invoicing the Contra Costa Nutrition Project, and through renting out the van for community events.

Requests for city funding:

- **We request that the City of Lafayette continue to fund this program with $25,000 for 2008-2009.**

- **We also request that Moraga fund this program with $25,000 for 2008-2009 and that Orinda fund this program with $14,500 for 2008-2009.**

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2. **The program is working. Here are our successes:**

- **Four volunteer drivers** drive our older citizens to meet their errand and shopping needs in Lafayette on Tuesdays, in Orinda on alternate Wednesdays, and in Moraga on Thursdays.

- **We have added monthly Friday trips** to Sun Valley Mall in Concord and Broadway Plaza in Walnut Creek as well as to concerts at the Lafayette Community Center and a February trip to lunch and a movie in Walnut Creek. Our lunch driver occasionally takes passengers to fun spots like the Oakland Zoo, Mt. Diablo, and the Alexander Lindsay Wild Life Museum. We hope to expand these much appreciated outings.

- **Customer satisfaction**: We continuously hear positive remarks about our drivers:
  - "The drivers are wonderful. They carry my groceries."
  - "He is so caring. He reminds me to lock the door and pick up my keys."
  - "I don't know what I would do without this service."
  - "I was house bound before the van."
  - "I appreciate the expansion of services."
  - "I'm looking forward to medical rides."

- **Rides Per month**

Month	**Rides per month Fiscal Years 2006-2007**	**Rides per month Fiscal Years 2007-2008**
July	114	203
August	157	223
September	150	201
October	120	198
November	127	168
December	111	164
January	185	176
February	160	206
March	170	190
April	185	143
May	210	154
June	203	
Total Rides	**1892**	**2026**
Average per month	**158**	**184**

Rides by City	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009
	12 months	**11 months**	
Lafayette	1006 rides – 53%	1385 – 68%	
Moraga	649 rides – 34%	392 – 19%	
Orinda	237 rides – 13%	249 – 12%	
Total	**1885**	**2026**	

- **Community support**
  - Our Advisory Committee is composed of members from all three of the Lamorinda communities we serve: Lafayette, Orinda, and Moraga. The Committee is actively involved in doing what is needed to keep us running and has participated in approaching the City Councils of Moraga and Orinda to share in the mutual effort to sustain and expand this vital service.
  - Volunteers have come forward to provide support in the office, accounting expertise, and help with event planning and implementation.
  - We have been successful in raising funds.

Revenue	**Budget 2007-2008**	**Actual through April, 2008**
Fares	$ 3,240	$2742
CCC Transit Authority	$ 5,000	$5,352
Van Advertising	$ 5,700	$3,500
Moraga Jr. Women's Cub	$ 12,000	Projected up to $15,000 To be received June 4, 2008
Lafayette Community Foundation	$ 5,000	$5,000
City of Lafayette	$ 25,000	$25,000
Town of Moraga		$5,000
Donations	$ 2,500	$2,500
Fund Raiser	$ 550	$550
East Bay Community Foundation		$5,000 Committed for 2008. Will receive in 2008-2009 fiscal year.
Revenue Sub Total	$ 58,990	$49,644
Fund Balance from 2006-2007	$ 33,738	$33,738
Total Revenue	**$92,728**	**$49,737 per April Laf. Records**

3. **How we are serving Lafayette, Orinda, and Moraga**

- **Our side panel advertising currently supports the cities with the message "Shop Lamorinda."**

- **Community Groups** such as the Lafayette Community Center and Little League occasionally utilize our van to transport people to parking. The Chamber of Commerce uses our van to transport people from BART to downtown Lafayette during the Lafayette Art and Wine Festival and to various restaurants during the Taste of Lafayette. The Moraga Recreation Department recently requested the use of our van and a driver to take their seniors to a day in San Francisco. With the one van, however, we were unable to meet this particular request.

- **Lunch Trips for isolated seniors:** Through the van which seats eight people and one person in a wheelchair, we take seniors to the C.C. Café at the Walnut Creek Senior Center for lunch Monday through Friday at no cost to the passenger. This is an opportunity for house-bound seniors to not only enjoy a nutritious meal at very low cost ($2.00), but also to get out of the house to meet and socialize with new people, much enriching their daily lives.

    - ***"The proportion of leisure time that older Americans spent socializing and communicating – such as visiting friends or attending social events – declines by age, from 13% in those ages 55 to 64 to 10% for those 75 and over. The proportion of leisure time devoted to sports, exercise, recreation and travel also declines with age.***

    - ***On an average day, most Americans age 65 and older spent at least half of their leisure time watching television. Americans 75 and older spent a higher proportion of their leisure time reading, relaxing and thinking than did those ages 55 to 64."*** *Older Americans 2008: Key indicators of Well-Being*, the fourth comprehensive look at aging in the United States from the Federal Interagency Forum on Aging Related Statistics since 2000. (This 160 page report is published by the Forum, a consortium representing 15 agencies with responsibilities for Federal data collection or aging programs and is considered the most reliable official statistics about the well-being of older Americans).

- **Essential Errands and Shopping for seniors who no longer can drive**: Besides the lunch program, we take our passengers shopping and to manage some of the routine errands of daily living. On Tuesday afternoons, we drive Lafayette seniors to their errands in Lafayette, taking them to Safeway, Trader Joe's, Diablo Foods, Longs Drugs, the bank, post office, and occasionally to hair and medical appointments. On Thursday afternoons, we drive Moraga seniors to similar

errands in Moraga and often to Trader Joe's in Lafayette. We recently added Orinda Errand Day on alternate Wednesdays. For this service, we charge $6.00 for a round trip and $3.00 for the occasional one-way trip, a fee that in no way covers the cost of the transportation.

- **Medical Appointments for seniors and people with disabilities**: The van program is particularly well-suited to outings for groups. We had hoped to acquire a second van in the Fall from the Contra Costa County Transit Authority (CCCTA); due to County budget constraints, however, they will not be releasing used vans to the community until 2010. We are experimenting with modifying our schedule to take seniors to their medical appointments at Kaiser and John Muir in Walnut Creek on Mondays and looking at ways to expand that offering without giving up the lunch trip.

4. Goals

- We propose continuing to research, solicit, and secure additional funding so that we can meet the program needs while being financially self-sufficient, i.e. it is not our intention to request more than the current level of support from the City of Lafayette.

- We are looking into becoming a 501c3 organization to enhance our fund raising capabilities. Certain funding sources are not open to us without taking this step including having cars donated to our program.

- We continue to recruit volunteer drivers to reduce our costs and have had a recent influx of people who will train to drive the van.

- We recently learned that we can modify the van so it only requires a Class C license. This will enhance our ability to gain volunteer drivers.

- We will continue to look for ways to secure a second van so that we may adequately serve the needs for rides to medical appointments.

Operating Budget 2007-2008 for one van

Expenses	Budget	Actual (through April)
Personnel Services	$56,361	$33,072.74
Van Maintenance and Fuel	$17,500	$ 5,750.72
Office Supplies	$ 1,200	$ 202.59
Postage	$ 420	$ 493.06
Printing and Binding	$ 200	
Special Departmental Supplies	$ 1,000	$ 121.16
Maintenance of Equipment	$ 500	
Utilities – Telephones	$ 800	$ 539.35
Training	$ 500	
Community Promotion	$ 3,500	$ 1024.46
Contractual Services	$ 600	$ 240.00
Equipment	$ 600	
Total Program Cost	**$83,181**	**$ 41,444.08**

We expect to come in under budget because we have to budget high for van maintenance, and so far, we haven't had to use the whole budget.

For 2008-2009, the budget we are submitting is as follows:

	2007-2008 Budget	2008 – 2009 1 Van Budget	2008-2009 Expenditures To Date
Personnel	$56,362	$66,103	
Office Supplies	$ 1,200	$ 1,200	
Postage	$ 420	$ 800	
Printing & Binding	$ 200	$ 200	
Spec. Dept. Supplies	$ 1,000	$ 1,000	
Van Maintenance & Fuel	$17,500	$17,500	
Maintenance of Equipment	$ 500	$ 500	
Telephones	$ 800	$ 800	
Training	$ 500	$ 700	
Comm. Promotion	$ 3,500	$ 2,500	
Contractual Services	$ 600	$ 600	
Equipment	$ 600	$ 600	
	$83,182	$92,503	

2008-2009 Revenue Projections

	Budget 2008-2009	**Committed**
Fares @ $3 per ride	$2,640	
Fundraisers	$3,600	
Sponsors (Van Advertising)	$5,700	
East Bay Comm. Foundation	$5,000	$ 5,000
Lafayette - Requested	$25,000	
Moraga – Requested	$25,000	
Orinda - Requested	$14,500	
Unknown Grant	$25,000	
Projected 2007-2008 Ending Fund Balance	$22,754	$22,754
Total	129,194	$27,754

Thank you for considering our report and goals.

Sincerely,

Mary Bruns
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